

Newsletter

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Vice-Pres. & Programs: Judy Bogaard
Secretaries: Marlys Seibert, Pat Wallerstedt

Treasurer: Donald Zarley
Membership: Ferne Michael
Newsletter: Selma Duvick

MARCH MEETING
SUNDAY
MARCH 24, 2002 4:00 PM

AT THE CROWN POINT MEETING
ROOM

Program:

Karen Pound

Speaking on

Gravestone Symbols

No doubt most of us have wandered through a cemetery and wondered why certain images appeared on the headstones. Karen will explain all!

And we will have a
POTLUCK MEAL

Bring your utensils and a dish to share!

Looking Ahead.....

Wednesday, April. 24 at 4:00 PM
Crown Point Meeting Room

This will be our annual meeting,
with election of officers and other
business

Wednesday, May 22 at 4:00 PM
Crown Point Meeting Room
Put these dates on your calendar.

From the President.....

I'm sure you are all wondering what's happening with the Simpson house and barn project. We've been busy, even though it doesn't show.

We have FINALLY come to an agreement with the city. The main concern of the city has been that the structures would be moved to the park and the project abandoned. No one wants that!

We will do the project in phases as we raise funds to complete each phase. The move, outside repairs and renovations will be done this year.

In order to make the move possible, we have an architect and engineers working to make sure that all systems (structural, mechanical and electrical) will fit together and that we will have sufficient support for both structures with beams and posts.

We are still waiting to hear from MidAmerican Energy about the work they will need to do along the move route to clear it of overhead wires. We are getting quotes for liability and property damage insurance once the structures are on city property.

Once we know the date of the move, we will get a permit from the city. The mover will coordinate the placement of his beams with the final placement of our beams.

Our last job before the final move is to clear out the last of the discard lumber from the barn. We have salvaged good lumber and doors that will be used in the renovation of the ground floor of the barn.

At the beginning of the process of coming to an agreement with the city, the executive board and board of directors agreed that the Society did not want the final responsibility of running the barn as a event facility.

The City of Johnston agreed that the city would use the barn for rentals and would pay for all utilities for the house. Revenue generated from the barn would be used to "further enhance the farmstead and the park." The barn will be available for society functions and fundraising events.

Besides the move, our biggest task will be continued fundraising. We have \$136,000 to work with for phase I. We will continue to write grants and to ask for financial support wherever we can.

We need everyone's help!

Mary Jane Paez



January Meeting:

Dressed in mourning attire typical of the 19th century, Lorna Grow presented an entertaining and interesting story about customs and folklore that have surrounded funerals and burials in the recent past. In the 19th century and before, one did not attend a funeral without an invitation; often, so-

called mourning cards would be distributed to those in attendance.

Funerals were most often conducted in the home, and it was important to have a suitable exit—a wide enough door, etc. for the coffin. Doors and doorknobs of the home would be decorated with ribbons, wreathes, etc. in a style according to the age and station of the deceased. It was customary to provide a suitable "funeral feast" for the mourners.

Widows, according to our speaker, were expected to stay in mourning for 2 to 2 1/2 years, with various stages of restrictions on dress, social activities, etc. A widower, on the other hand could dispense with mourning his departed after 6 months.

Burial grounds, too, have been subject to changes over the years. In Puritan times, they were considered suitable places for picnics!! And there have been many changes in the type of headstones, etc. considered appropriate to mark the burial place.

February Meeting:

As one who grew up with the grounds of Camp Dodge as his playground, Bob Thomas gave an inside view of the military reservation with a series of recollections and anecdotes.

Bob's father was U.S. Property and Disbursing Officer at the camp, and had been a Lt. Colonel in France in WWI, and the Assistant Auditor for the State of Iowa. The family lived at Camp Dodge from 1927 to 1952 and so Bob was in a unique position to follow the events there and the changes over the years.

Camp Dodge, he noted, is home to the Iowa Military Academy, which trains officers for the Iowa National Guard. There is an armory named after Junior Miller, who was Adjutant General with the Iowa National Guard.

Another landmark is the tree, which has been identified, under which Ronald Reagan, at the time he was sportscaster in Des Moines, parked his '34 Cadillac convertible when he came to the Camp Dodge Pool for a swim.

(In a recent article in the Des Moines Register, Walt Shotwell, reflecting on the announcement of the closing of the Camp Dodge pool, says Reagan drove a new 1936 Nash. Maybe he traded the Cadillac in for the Nash???)

The pool itself is a landmark—one of the largest outdoor filtered pools in the world. And the bathhouse is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bob recalled the fire at the stables at the camp in 1931. At that time horses from Ft. Des Moines were housed there. An electrical short set the stables alight, and panic-stricken horses, set loose, scattered throughout the countryside. They were rounded up from as far away as the Drake area, Highland Park, and E 14th Street.

He remembers travelling to Atlantic, Iowa to bring in troops for training in old Liberty trucks of WWI vintage, on less-than-improved roads.

The old watertower across from the Camp Dodge Pool entrance originally had a wooden-vaulted roof. When this rotted away, a new concrete roof was installed. Bob recalls climbing down into the tank, a thrill for a small boy.

One reason that the Camp Dodge area was chosen as an induction center in WWI was that Iowa was considered to have a good moral climate. The same contractor, Weitz Company, was responsible for construction at the Camp during both WWI and WWII.

Facilities at Camp Dodge have been used for purposes other than military. At one time patients from the Madrid Home were housed there after a fire made the home uninhabitable. And of course, many classes of Johnston elementary students have attended school in the old barracks buildings during the times in the 1960's when the local schools were over-crowded.

Bob Thomas told of a personal coincidence related to Camp Dodge. Although his wife Jean is from San Diego, CA, her father, from Minnesota, was inducted into the WWI army at Camp Dodge. He informed his new bride, who at that time was living in Highland Park, that he feared he was about to be sent overseas. She immediately took a cab to the camp to wish him farewell, and bringing with her a piece of their wedding cake to give him as a special memento.

The cab driver, no doubt sympathizing with her, took her to the Camp Commander. He in turn, hearing her story, sent her along in his chauffeured car to meet the departing train near Herrold. So Jean's mother was given the opportunity to say goodbye to her husband, off to the war.

Bob and Jean met, much later on, during WWII and far from Iowa.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Best Wishes and Congratulations to Madilyn Allender, who has been our trusty secretary for many months, and has seen us through a fund-raising campaign! Madilyn was named Johnston Citizen of the Year, principally for her work as Johnston's "Community Greeter," and Chamber of Commerce Ambassador. But the JSBS can also attest to her ability to get the job done in a graceful and efficient way!!

Another JSBS member, Wesley Jordan, was named Johnston Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

Wes is the owner of Jordan Motors in Johnston.

Congratulations to both Madilyn and Wes!

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THANK YOU!

Madilyn Allender has resigned her position as secretary for the JSBS. She has done a great job keeping us and our records and correspondence up to date, especially during our fund raising. She will be serving as our Publicity Chair.

Many Thanks, Madilyn



And we're pleased to announce that Marlys Seibert and Pat Wallerstedt have taken on duties of secretary, and are continuing to keep us up to date with our records, minutes, correspondence, etc.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts to the JSBS

From Ferne Michael

Des Moines Iowa

In memory of:

Robert Otto

Dushan Orlich

Bessie Carlson

Richard Murray

From Raymond and Vivian Schleihs

Johnston, Iowa

In memory of

Robert Otto



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OUR HOUSE AND BARN

We continue to need contributions from the membership and community for completing the move and renovation of the Simpson House and Barn.

If you have not as yet become a part of our effort, consider sending a check to:

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Post Office Box 109

Johnston, Iowa 50131.

Gifts to the JSBS are tax-deductible under IRS code 501 (c) (3)

Levels of giving are:

Trailblazer: \$50,000 or more

Patriot: \$25,000 to \$49,999

Dragoon: \$10,000 to \$24,999

Sodbuster: \$5,000 to \$9,999

Wagonmaster: \$1,000 to \$4,999

Scout: \$100 to \$999

Caretaker: \$1.00 to \$99

Bricks are \$85 each

two lines, 14 characters per line

Recent contributors are:

Caretaker

Ralph & Virginia Silver
Altoona, IA.
Lois Reier
Johnston, IA

Scout

Beulah Bettoney
Johnston, IA
Raymond & Marie Schlenker
Johnston, IA
Robert Miller
Johnston, IA
Polk County Bank
Johnston & Polk City IA

Bricks

Donald & Mildred Peitzman
Johnston, IA
Memorial to Esther & Herbert Peitzman
Elaine M. Berry
Troutdale, OR
Mary Rittgers
Johnston, IA
In Memory of Clarence Rittgers
Jeanne and Merton Hansen
Johnston, IA



Membership Renewals

Check your address label.

If there is an "01" after your name, you need to renew your membership!

Send \$10 for single, \$12 for family membership to the Johnston (Station) Historical Society, Post Office Box 109, Johnston, IA 50131

In Memoriam

Bessie (Lundstrom) Carlson

Bessie (Lundstrom) Carlson, a Charter Member of the Johnston Historical Society died on January 23, 2002 at the age of 92. Though Bessie was a resident of rural Ankeny, she had many ties to the Johnston Community. She graduated from Johnston High School in 1927, and often rode to school on horseback from her home in Crocker Township across the river.

Through the years Bessie was active in her community, especially interested in local schools, gardening, the out-of-doors, and history of the surrounding area. She belonged to the Polk City and Ankeny Historical Societies as well as the JSHS. She was a fine resource for local history of her time, and she will be missed for the contributions she made to her community.

The JSHS sends its sympathy to Bessie Carlson's family, and to her many friends.

Robert Otto

Robert Otto, retired principal of Johnston High School, died on February 8, 2002 at Luther Park in Des Moines. Bob was a Johnston native, and had contributed to his community in many ways in addition to his service with the school district.

At one time Bob served on the City Council; he was chair of the committee which was responsible for the founding of the Johnston Library, and was a library trustee for a number of years.

Robert Otto, was, in a real sense, the "founding father" of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society. In 1993, Bob gathered a few local residents together with the purpose of writing a short history of the area to give to new residents who were asking about Johnston's origins.

And in 1994 Bob invited these and other interested citizens to join in forming and incorporating the Johnston (Station) Historical Society. He served as president of the JSHS until April of 1996, when he resigned because of ill health.

Bob was keenly interested in the history and the welfare of the Johnston community. His efforts and his leadership will be missed.

The JSHS sends sympathy to his wife Betty and children and grandchildren.

Rev. Richard Murray

The JSHS has received word of the death of member Richard Murray on January 7, 2002 in Dallas Texas. Born in Des Moines, Richard served a number of Methodist Churches before joining the faculty at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX, where he taught for 29 years until his retirement.

The Rev. Murray was noted for his development of Bible study programs, and for his teaching. There are a number of Murray relatives in the Johnston area, including his brother and JSHS member Phil Murray. The JSHS sends sympathy to his family and friend.



From Bauman to Garlock to Simpson

A brief history of the Simpson House

The history of the Simpson house reflects the settlement of the Townships of Polk County which are now a part of Johnston.

John Bauman and Anna Barbara Claus immigrated to the US from Württemberg, Germany in 1847. They were married in 1848, and settled in Ohio, where 3 children were born to them. In 1854 John and his family came to Jefferson Township in Polk County, Iowa, where they bought land along what is now NW. 70th Avenue. just east of Grimes. Four more children were born here; one of them was John Henry Bauman, born in October of 1855.

John Henry married Mary Friar, who was of Irish descent, and probably grew up locally, for there was a Friar School on the north side of NW. 62nd Avenue near the current location of the Pioneer buildings.

Another son was Jacob; he married Louise Betz, daughter of Johannes Bez, who also emigrated from Württemberg, Germany. A plat map from about 1875 shows farmland in this area owned by the Seibert and Betz families, as well as the Bauman family,

John Henry Bauman prospered, and built a fine farmhouse on some of his land, probably at the turn of the century. The well-built house boasted large living and

dining rooms with pocket doors, kitchen, and a large entry hall with a graceful staircase to the upper floor. There were 6 bedrooms on the second floor, and above them a pleasant and roomy attic with dormer windows.

An older member of the Bauman family told of memories of a family wedding, and the sight of the bride, a Bauman daughter, coming down the staircase in her wedding gown.

John Henry's youngest daughter, Laura, married E. J. Garlock. The Garlock family had orchards along what was then known as "the Ridge Road" now NW Beaver Drive. When the land owned by the elder John Bauman was divided among his heirs, the house and land around it went to Laura Bauman Garlock.

It was at this time that Laura and E.J. Garlock planted their orchard along what is now 86th Street, and NW 70th Avenue. It was a community landmark, and the corner of 86th and 70th Ave. was known as Garlock's Corner.

The orchard prospered for many years, and survived the devastating Armistice Day freeze in 1940 when so many orchards in the state were damaged. In 1955 the Garlock family sold the farm, house and orchard: 200 acres.

The new owners were Laverne and Shirley Simpson, who were looking for a good place to raise their family. Laverne was in the trucking business in Des Moines. For a number of years the Simpsons and their sons continued to maintain the orchard, and they sold apples from a small building along the road near the house.

The barn, located just north of the house, was destroyed by fire, probably in the 1950's, and was re-built as a horse barn by the Simpsons.

The time came when selling apples was not profitable, so Laverne and Shirley abandoned the orchard business, but continued to live in the house. After building a home for themselves across the road, the Simpsons rented the old house to others.

Early in 2001 Laverne and Shirley Simpson signed an agreement to give the house together with the barn and windmill, now in the path of housing developments, to the Johnston Historical Society provided the Society move them from their current location by November of 2002.

Since then, Society members have been working to make this dream a reality by finding a location for the house and barn (Johnston Commons) and preparing them for the move.

Thanks to Marilyn Bauman Finnney for photo, and information on her family





JOHN HENRY AND MARY (FRIAR) BAUMAN